

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action of May 6, 2004 has been received and considered. In the Office Action, claims 1, 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Claims 2, 6 and 7 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 11 and 12 were allowed.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the language of allowable claim 2. Accordingly, claim 2 has been cancelled. Claim 7 has also been amended for consistency with the other pending claims. Claims 1, 4-7, 11 and 12 remain in this application. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1, 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,912,542 to Zalesski. As discussed above, claim 1 has been amended to include the language of "objected to" claim 2. Since claim 1 now includes the allowable language of claim 2, claim 1 is allowable over the patent to Zalesski. Similarly, claims 4-7, which depend from claim 1, are also allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 4 and 5 is requested.

Claims 11 and 12 have been allowed. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance.

The amendments to the claims do not raise any new issues or considerations because claim 2 originally depended from claim 1. The amendment to claim 7 does not raise any issues because it merely makes the language in claim 7 more consistent with the language in claim 1. Additionally, these amendments place the application in better condition for appeal. Entry of the amendments is requested.

Appln. No.: 09/904,731
Amendment dated June 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 6, 2004

If any questions or issues remain, the resolution of which the Examiner feels would be advanced by a conference with Applicants' attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' attorney at the number noted below.

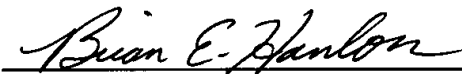
The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees relating to this matter to Deposit Account No. 19-0733.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated: June 15, 2004

By:



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